

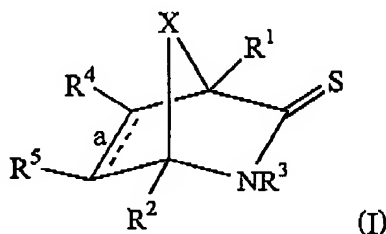
REMARKS AND ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the present application. No changes have been made to the claims.

The abstract has been objected to for use of the word "comprising." Applicant submits herewith a replacement abstract which uses the word "containing" in place of "comprising."

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Chapelet et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,170,561; hereinafter "Chapelet") in view of Oishi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,585,487; hereinafter "Oishi"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites low molecular-weight compounds not bound to a polymeric chain. These compounds are [2,2,1] bicyclic systems, as shown below in Formula (I):



In contrast, Chapelet discloses only polymeric substances. Even the monomers specifically cited in the Office Action on page 4 are mostly single-ring systems. The ones that are fused-ring systems (e.g., phenothiazines, benzothiazoles) are planar systems which are not [2,2,1] bicyclic systems, and which do not contain the bridging "X" group of formula I. In any case, these are monomers, which are only the starting materials for the polymeric oil additives actually disclosed in Chapelet.

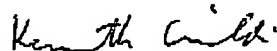
Oishi also discloses a completely different ring system, in this case a fused β -lactam which is a [3,1,0] bicyclic system, which also lacks the bridging "X" group. The Office Action asserts that "Oishi's structure overlaps with the presently claimed structure when X=O and a is a single bond." This clearly is not the case for the reasons just stated. Moreover, the only motivation asserted in the Office Action for combining Oishi, which is directed to preparation of biologically active compounds, with Chapelet is that the β -lactam of Oishi "will improve the oil viscosity index as well as ensuring the dispersion of the slurry." There is no suggestion of this in Oishi. Moreover, starting with the polymeric additive of Chapelet and looking for

other structurally similar materials, one would look to other polymeric substances, not low-molecular-weight β -lactams, such as those disclosed in Oishi. The β -lactams of Oishi cannot even be used as monomers to prepare such polymeric substances because they lack the vinyl group present in Chapelet's monomers.

These differences render the compounds disclosed by the references chemically distinct from the compounds recited in the present claims. There is no motivation in the references to modify the compounds disclosed therein to produce the compounds recited in the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are not obvious over the references.

If the Examiner has any concerns regarding the application, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to discuss the issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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